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For Immediate Release:

## CHECK OUT YOUR CONTRACTOR BEFORE YOU HIRE THEM

(Helena, MT) The Montana Department of Labor and Industry is reminding homeowners and businesses to use caution when choosing a contractor who may be looking to make a quick buck repairing damage done by recent floods. As homeowners and businesses across the state start recovering from flooding, we want to make sure they have the information they need to hire the right contractor. Unfortunately in times of disaster unscrupulous companies see an opportunity to make fast money without doing the work, said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. If something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Warning signs to watch out for include:

- The contractor will only accept payment in cash
- Is pressuring you into making a hasty decision
- Requiring you to pay in full up front

Here are some tips that both homeowners and businesses can follow when choosing a contractor:

- Verify the contractor is registered with the State of Montana
- Check with the State Construction Contractor Registration Unit to be sure that the contractor is in compliance
- Find out if the contractor belongs to an industry association
- Check for proper insurance (Liability, Workers Compensation)
- Call references; look at past projects
- Have a contract detailing every aspect of the project including how and when paid
- Communicate. Assure each of you have a complete understanding of expectations
- Visually inspect each part of the project

For more information on hiring the right contractor or to find a list of local contractors in your area log onto [www.mtcontractor.com](http://www.mtcontractor.com) or call 406-444-7734.

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